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General Assembly
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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 12 February 2015 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I regret to inform that conditions in the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, are worsening as Israel, the occupying Power, continues its illegal and provocative practices, especially in connection with its settlement activities and collective punishment of the Palestinian people.

In grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention, notably articles 49 and 33, Israel persists with its colonization of the Palestinian land, the confiscation and destruction of Palestinian property and the forced displacement of Palestinian civilians. The occupying Power persists with gross collective punishment and reprisal against the entire Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, foremost by way of its inhumane blockade. The cumulative effect is one of increased humanitarian suffering, frustration and hopelessness, threatening to completely destabilize the situation.

Despite the rising tensions and risks, Israel is systematically committing these crimes as a matter of policy. It does so in defiance of world opinion and in blatant contempt for international law, including the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, to which the State of Palestine has acceded and will soon become a State party. Unquestionably, the lack of accountability has fostered this Israeli impunity, regarding which it is high time for the international community to confront as a matter of legal, political and moral responsibility, with full knowledge that such illegal actions have obstructed and continue to obstruct the achievement of a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

In the recent period, the Israeli Government has moved forward on decisions to expand several settlements in the West Bank through various deceitful and illegal measures. This includes the issuance of military orders for the confiscation of thousands of dunums of Palestinian land by declaring them as so-called "State lands" and declaring other areas as so-called "closed military zones". Throughout nearly half a century of this belligerent military occupation, all such measures have

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served one Israeli agenda: to forcibly displace the Palestinian population and colonize and de facto annex massive areas of Palestinian land, in grave breach of international law and in contradiction to the two-State solution on the pre-1967 borders.

During the current week, on 9 February, Israel issued a military order declaring large areas of land extending from Occupied East Jerusalem to Bethlehem, to Al-Khalil to the Dead Sea as "closed military zones". In this regard, it is relevant to note that the Palestinian Government had previously declared its intentions to create a nature reserve and build an airport in this area of Palestine. Moreover, it should be noted that approximately 18 per cent of the West Bank has been designated as a "closed military zone for training" by Israel, affecting at least 38 Palestinian communities and thousands of Palestinian civilians.

At the same time, Israel continues unabated with settlement activities in Occupied East Jerusalem, aggressively targeting the city with this illegal campaign. In the recent period, this has involved the advancement of plans for the construction of thousands of units under the guise of "tourism" and "building hotel rooms" in several distinctly Palestinian neighbourhoods of the city, including in Jabal Al-Mukaber, Sheikh Jarrah, Beit Safafa and Wadi Al-Joz.

All such plans are clearly aimed at entrenching Israel's illegitimate control of the area with the establishment of more "facts on the ground" further linking the illegal settlements and further isolating Occupied East Jerusalem. This involves ongoing attempts by the occupying Power to implement the so-called "E1" plan, including various schemes and repeated attempts to forcibly displace thousands of Palestinian Bedouin families in that area. We once again draw the attention of the international community to this issue, underscoring the threats of such Israeli actions to the contiguity of the State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem. In this regard, Palestinian civilian protests against these actions continue to be met with aggression, with the Israeli occupying forces destroying, for the fifth time during the current week, the "Bawabat Al-Quds" (Jerusalem gateway) protest village near Abu Dis, tearing it down with bulldozers and confiscating property, including the personal belongings of the protesters.

Further, in blatant connection with its illegal settlement campaign, Israel, the occupying Power, continues to demolish Palestinian homes and properties in direct breach of the clear prohibitions in international humanitarian law. In this regard, we must draw attention to the recent order issued by the Israeli Prime Minister for the demolition of 400 Palestinian structures in so-called "Area C" of the West Bank, the majority of which have been built with European Union funding support for schools and homes and economic development in the area. Also, on 27 January, an Israeli court issued an order for the confiscation of hundreds of dunums of Palestinian land in the village of Beit Ula, north-west of Al-Khalil. In addition, the Israeli occupying forces have posted notices for the confiscation of another 2,000 dunums of private Palestinian land in the village of Shuyukh, north-east of Al-Khalil.

These deliberate, illegal and systematic Israeli actions are seriously undermining the Palestinian presence and viability of Palestinian communities in the area. In the month of January 2015 alone, Israeli demolitions in "Area C" resulted in the destruction of 86 structures, including homes, water pipelines, cisterns and tanks, agricultural vehicles and fences, and the displacement of 117 people, including children. Such arbitrary and wanton destruction, which is clearly aimed at causing misery and making life unbearable for the Palestinian

civilian population, constitutes a breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention and violates numerous human rights, including the right to property, to adequate housing, to livelihood, to education and to development.

Of course, the occupying Power also continues apace with its demolitions in Occupied East Jerusalem. On 9 February, the Israeli occupying forces demolished a Palestinian home, again in the Silwan neighbourhood, which has been heavily targeted by such destruction. The demolition rendered 14 members of the family of Ahmad Mahmoud Al-Abbasi homeless, and the family was even prevented from removing its belongings from the home before it was demolished.

In this regard, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat documented that, in 2014, at least 590 Palestinian-owned structures in "Area C" and Occupied East Jerusalem had been destroyed by Israel. This resulted in the forced displacement of 1,177 Palestinians, the highest number since the Office began monitoring the displacement of the civilian population under Israeli occupation in 2008.

Regrettably, while the international community has long recognized the illegality of all of these Israeli actions, has repeatedly condemned them and called for their cessation, the failure to enact consequences for Israeli violations and contempt has led to a situation of total impunity that has made more and more implausible the achievement of the two-State solution, despite the firm Palestinian and global commitment to this solution.

Salvaging the two-State solution and averting the further destabilization of this volatile situation require immediate action by the international community. Measures must be undertaken to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to cease all such violations and crimes and to abide by obligations under international law or to be fully held accountable should it fail to do so. This includes responsible action by the Security Council, which is long overdue, both to ensure respect of international law and to contribute seriously to the achievement of a final, just, lasting and peaceful solution to this conflict, as well as actions by Governments, parliaments and civil society to uphold international law and to compel compliance, including with regard to all manifestations of Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 536 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the State of Palestine. Those letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 2 February 2015 (A/ES-10/672-S/2015/81) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed against the Palestinian people. Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/674–S/2015/139

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 25 February 2015 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General-Assembly and the President of the Security Council

The situation of the Palestinian civilian population under Israeli occupation remains critical owing to innumerable policies and practices being perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, in systematic, gross violation of international law, including, inter alia, the laws specifically intended to protect civilians in situations of armed conflict, including foreign occupation.

The right to life of Palestinian civilians — children, women and men — is under constant threat due to the excessive, indiscriminate force routinely used by the Israeli occupying forces and acts of violence and terror committed by Israeli settlers. Such brutality at the hands of the occupation, along with other measures of intimidation and provocation, continue to wilfully cause death and bodily harm and injury to Palestinian civilians, including permanent disabilities for thousands of people.

Today, we remember the appalling massacre committed by an Israeli settler against Palestinian worshippers in Al-Ibrahimi Mosque in At-Khalil on 25 February 1994 during the holy month of Ramadan. This heinous massacre was strongly condemned by the Security Council and led to the adoption of resolution 904 (1994) which called for "... measures to be taken to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians throughout the occupied territory, including inter alia, a temporary international or foreign presence, ...".

Twenty-one years later the Palestinian people continue to suffer. Yesterday, 24 February 2015, a young Palestinian lost his life to the senseless brutality of the Israeli occupying forces. Nineteen year-old Jihad Shehadeh Al-Jaafari was shot and killed during a pre-dawn military raid by the occupying forces in the Dheisheh refugee camp in Bethlehem. Reports indicate that he was shot directly by Israeli sniper fire while on the rooftop of his home. Such violent Israeli raids are carried out on a daily basis in the West Bank, including in and around Occupied East

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Jerusalem, with hundreds of raids per month causing dozens of Palestinian casualties, resulting in particular from the use of live ammunition against our defenceless civilian population in their homes, in peaceful demonstrations and in the streets of their neighbourhoods and communities.

Palestinian civilians also remain under constant threat of arrest, detention and abuse of their persons while in captivity; seizure and destruction of their property, including their homes, resulting in their forced dispossession and displacement; and obstruction and destruction of their livelihoods; as well as virulent racist attacks by extremists and institutionalized discrimination by the occupation.

I wish to highlight just a few examples of the many recent attacks, particularly by Israeli settlers, who continue to be emboldened by the occupying Power's illegal and rabid settlement colonization campaign throughout Occupied Palestine. This includes the recent wounding of two Palestinians, a 10-year-old girl, Mariam Kareem Dana, in the Silwan neighbourhood of Occupied East Jerusalem, and a 21-year-old man, Hassan Abdelrahman Badran, in Al-Khalil area, in settler attacks. Both were targeted by settlers using vehicles as a weapon to run over civilians, a repeated crime for which there is no accountability, even in incidents causing death, as in the killing of a 5-year-old Palestinian girl, Inas Khalil, in October 2014, by a settler. Also, on 21 February, Israeli settlers attacked and stabbed a 10-year-old Palestinian boy while he was playing in the snow in the Tel Rumeida area of Al-Khalil. Israeli settlers also continue to carry out near daily attacks against Palestinian farmers and shepherds and to uproot and burn olive trees and entire groves, undermining the livelihoods and sustenance of hundreds of Palestinian families.

Also, today, extremist Israeli settlers again set fire to a mosque, this time Al-Huda Mosque in the Palestinian village of Jaba'a south of Bethlehem. The fire, set in the early dawn hours, caused extensive damage to the mosque, in addition to settler vandalism of its walls with graffiti calling for the killing of Arabs and Muslims. These hateful, violent actions continue to be committed by Israeli settlers with impunity and threaten to ignite a dangerous religious confrontation. We thus again draw the international community's attention to the escalation of religious tensions due to such Israeli provocations and incitement against Palestinian Muslim and Christian communities and holy sites, including Al-Aqsa Mosque in Occupied East Jerusalem, which also continues to be subjected to provocations and incursions by Israeli extremists, and the potentially grave and manifold consequences of such reckless aggravation of this already volatile situation.

At the same time, the entire Palestinian civilian population under Israel's occupation suffers from continuous and multiple human rights violations resulting from the measures of collective punishment imposed by the occupying Power, most oppressively and inhumanely in the form of the illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip, which has caused the isolation and deprivation of the entire population, severely impacting their well-being. The disastrous humanitarian situation and consequent precarious security situation in the Gaza Strip have been well documented by the United Nations agencies on the ground, including the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and has been repeatedly brought to the attention of the Security Council by the United Nations Special Coordinator, Mr. Robert Serry, in his briefings, yet to no avail.

Regrettably, there has been little relief for the Palestinian people as the illegal Israeli blockade of Gaza continues and reconstruction of the thousands of homes and other civilian infrastructure destroyed in the criminal Israeli aggression of July-August 2014 continues to be obstructed. The massive destruction caused by the occupying forces has left more than 100,000 people without adequate housing and shelter, grossly violating this human right. This has resulted, inter alia, in the exposure of civilians to extreme weather conditions, including flooding and freezing cold, which have caused death and illness, especially affecting children, causing further distress and despair for an already traumatized people. Moreover, electricity cuts of up to 18 hours a day and lack of access to an adequate water supply, both exacerbated as a result of the combined impact of the blockade and the Israeli aggression, continue to negatively affect all aspects of daily life and to intensify the frustrations and distress of the population.

The cumulative result of these ongoing illegal Israeli policies and actions is the deepening of the protection crisis being endured by the Palestinian civilian population. While international humanitarian law, specifically as codified in the Fourth Geneva Convention, stipulates the responsibility of the occupying Power for the protection of the civilian population under its occupation, Israel is instead launching daily assaults on the Palestinian civilian population. Rather than ensuring the safety and well-being of the civilian population under its occupation, Israel is violating this and many other obligations defined in the core human rights covenants with impunity and with grave impact on the Palestinian people.

We thus reiterate our appeals for the protection of the Palestinian people in accordance with the relevant provisions of international law and we recall the appeals made in this regard in specific by President Mahmoud Abbas. The pledges and commitments made by the international community, inter alia, in the context of the Security Council's efforts to address the protection of civilian persons in armed conflict as well as the declarations by the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to honour their obligation to respect and ensure respect of the Convention in all circumstances, must be upheld, including vis-à-vis the situation in the Occupied State of Palestine. Measures must be undertaken, in accordance with international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and the relevant United Nations resolutions, to compel Israel to cease its violations and to respect its legal obligations. This is imperative for alleviating the suffering of the Palestinian people under this nearly half-century Israeli military occupation, as well as for diffusing the volatile situation on the ground and for salvaging the prospects for peace, which have been so severely battered by Israel's criminal behaviour and intransigence.

In this regard, before concluding, I must again also draw attention to the extremely negative impact of Israel's illegal withholding of Palestinian tax revenues on the Palestinian people and their Government. This illegal measure, undertaken deliberately and punitively in retribution for legitimate, peaceful and non-violent efforts by the Palestinian leadership to protect and advance the rights of the Palestinian people, continues to seriously harm the functioning of the Palestinian national institutions and services, including in the fields of health, education, law and order, and is having a detrimental impact on the well-being of our people. We therefore reiterate our call on the international community, to demand and to act to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to immediately release Palestinian funds and to cease all punitive measures and illegal actions against the Palestinian people and to

comply forthwith with all of its obligations under international law and to show in word and deed that it is committed to the path of peace that we have been long committed to.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 537 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 12 February 2015 (A/ES-10/673-S/2015/109), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed against the Palestinian people. Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 27 February 2015 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

In follow-up to my recent letter regarding the vile terror attacks being committed by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians and properties, I regret to inform you of another attack, committed yesterday on a Christian holy site. Such vicious attacks, directly aimed at insulting and intimidating Palestinian Muslims and Christians, are inflaming religious sensitivities and tensions and risk instigating the outbreak of a religious war, with all of the grave ramifications in this regard.

Yesterday, 26 February, extremist Israeli settlers set fire to a Christian seminary belonging to the Greek Orthodox Church in the Old City of Occupied East Jerusalem. Extensive damage was caused by this blatant act of terrorism, including the burning of a schoolroom in the seminary and the spray-painting of hate graffiti about Jesus on the seminary's walls consisting of vulgar and offensive words that cannot be printed in such diplomatic correspondence. This crime comes on the heels of the attack, committed a day earlier, on a mosque in the village of Jaba'a in the Bethlehem area, where Israeli settlers also burned the mosque and defiled its walls with graffiti.

Such attacks have been repeatedly perpetrated by gangs of racist, extremist and terrorist Israeli settlers who have been deliberately transferred to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, by Israel, the occupying Power, in grave breach of international law. As such, Israel bears ultimate responsibility for the presence of the settlers on our land and for all of their crimes, including all acts of terror.

It is clear that attacks against Palestinian Christian and Muslim holy sites are intended to terrorize and intimidate the Palestinian people, an objective shamelessly claimed by settlers carrying out this violent campaign, which they have dubbed as "price tag" attacks for years, as well as by settler leaders, some of them members of the Israeli Government. Such attacks are perpetrated daily in the form of assaults on

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Palestinian school children, in brutal attacks against Palestinian farmers and shepherds, in vehicular attacks by settlers running over Palestinian civilians and countless acts of property destruction and vandalism. In addition to the recent attacks on the mosque and the church, another attack yesterday involved the vandalism of a school in the Palestinian village of Urif, near Nablus, where terrorists associated with the so-called "hilltop youth" settler group spray-painted "Death to the Arabs" on the walls of the school.

It must be reiterated that all such criminal actions are the responsibility of the occupying Power and are part of its illegal, destructive settlement campaign in the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem. In this regard, as indicated in our recent letters and in various United Nations reports, Israeli settlement activities continue unabated, escalating with every passing year. As reported by the Israeli organization Peace Now, the year 2014 witnessed a 40 per cent increase in Israeli settlement activities, a 10-year high, and thousands of units are under construction and tens of thousands more are planned, further fragmenting our State's contiguity and territorial integrity.

Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable for all of these illegal policies and practices, by which it has expropriated and colonized Palestinian land, forcibly displaced hundreds of thousands of Palestinian civilians and stolen unquantifiable amounts of natural resources from Palestine. Moreover, this colonization campaign must be immediately stopped before it renders meaningless and physically impossible the two-State solution. The international community, including the Security Council, must no longer tolerate the contempt of the Israeli Government for the global, unanimous demands to cease all settlement activities in the Palestinian territory it has occupied militarily since June 1967.

We thus reiterate our call on the Security Council to unequivocally reiterate its demand to Israel, the occupying Power, to cease all settlement activities throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in accordance with international law and the relevant Security Council resolutions. This is a sine quo non for ending the occupation and for salvaging the two-State solution and must be a central pillar of any genuine push for a just and peaceful solution. The Security Council bears a clear responsibility for promoting such a peaceful solution in accordance with its duty under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Council must heed the appeals of the international community to overcome its paralysis vis-à-vis the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and to act with intent to contribute to the achievement of a solution.

In the case of continued Israeli violations, condemnation and appeals for cessation will no longer suffice and the Security Council must undertake specific measures to compel compliance by the occupying Power. Moreover, in this regard, we stress the legitimacy of all peaceful means of ensuring respect of international law, including accountability and redress through the International Criminal Court, to which the State of Palestine will soon become the 123rd State party.

The chances for peace are contingent on halting the Israeli settlement campaign, which is at the core of this illegitimate military occupation of Palestine and the prolonged conflict. A failure to rectify this situation will only foster greater Israeli impunity, bringing even more insecurity, including rising terror by settlers

emboldened by the lack of accountability, further entrenching the occupation and a fait accompli on the ground and cementing an end to the two-State solution.

This letter is in follow-up to our 538 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 25 February 2015 (A/ES-10/674-S/2015/139) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed against the Palestinian people, by Israel, the occupying Power, for which it must be held accountable and the perpetrators be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
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